From: Charles Lechasseur
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:34am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

hello,

i am writing to express my view of the proposed Microsoft settlement. in essence, i think it is useless.

the main problem i see is that it aims to allow other *commercial* companies to see microsoft's source code, etc. however, it has now become clear that microsoft's greatest enemy is not a particular company - it is Linux, a free, open-source operating system for PC-based computers.

Linux is not maintained by simply one company or individual, but rather by a group of many individuals all over the world, donating their time for the greater good. however, they don't do it for profit, so in the wording of the proposed settlement, wouldn't get to benefit from seeing microsoft's source code, etc.

there are surely many other problems with this settlement (like the fact that MS has a word in saying which company has a business model that's good enough to warrant seeing their source - it's like asking a killer what he thinks should be his verdict, and listening to him!). however, i just wanted to point out that microsoft probably doesn't care all that much if competitors see its source code, as long as those competitors are already way behind them. they probably care about Linux more than anything, and with the settlement, Linux is case aside.

--

charles lechasseur - danov@sympatico.ca
http://www3.sympatico.ca/danov/marathon/

  "The butts of evil are awaiting my bootprints!"
    - Minsc